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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

# THE NEW AVENGERS

The Avengers are on the run! Until they can be sure who's on their side, Spider-Man, Captain America, Luke Cage, Ronin, Mockingbird, Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively they try to keep the values of the Avengers name alive even though they're living on the wrong side of the law.

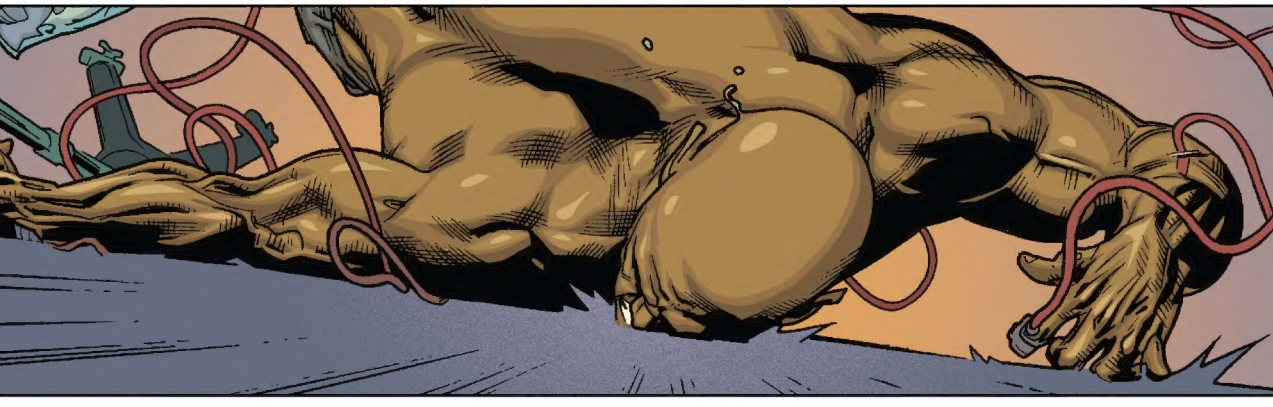
Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling and director of H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers.

The Hood has been running a syndicate of powerful criminals but has disappeared since losing his powers. Loki, the god of mischief, has offered The Hood a way to reclaim his power: The Asgardian Norn Stones.

But certain members of The Hood's syndicate, led by Doctor Jonas Harrow, have decided to strike out on their own with top secret technology that can siphon away super-powers. As a show of good will they turn over the tech to Osborn but not before the New Avengers escape, desperate to help their ailing teammate Luke Cage.

The New Avengers run to the hero-friendly Night Nurse for assistance but she is unable to help due to Cage's unbreakable skin. Meanwhile, Osborn has surrounded the building.

With one last gasp of selflessness, Cage gives himself up to Osborn, allowing his teammates the chance to escape…

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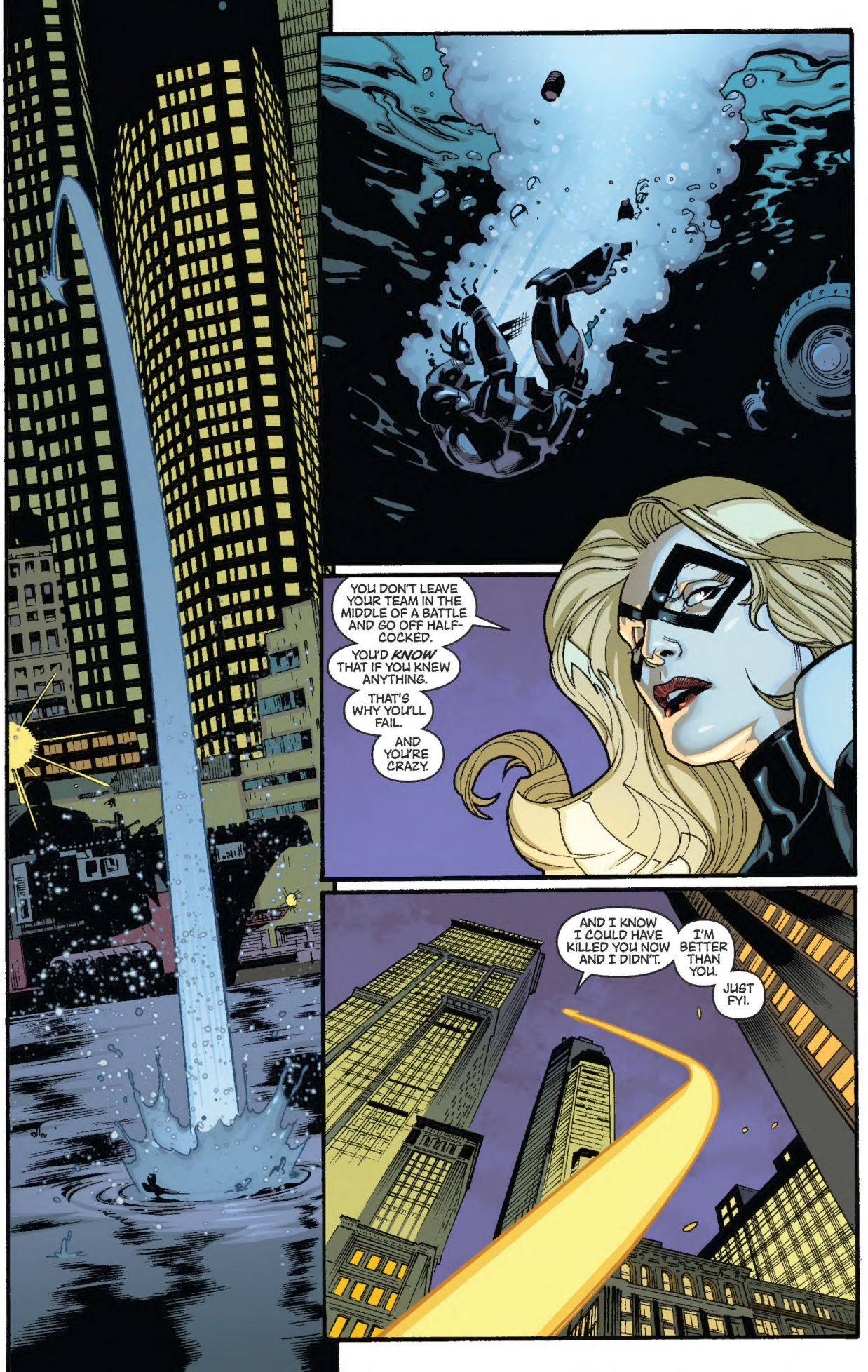
H.A.M.M.E.R. COMMAND, THIS IS OSBORN.
WE HAVE LUKE CAGE IN CUSTODY. I REPEAT, WE HAVE LUKE CAGE.
EVERYONE BACK!
THE MAN IS HURT!
OH, @#$% HIM, ARES.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER AVENGERS?!

BOOM
CAROL DANVERS IS ON THE RUN! I AM IN PURSUIT.
I'M ON BACKUP.
NO! SECURE THE PERIMETER, KARLA!
NONE OF THE OTHER AVENGERS GET OUT OF THAT BUILDING!
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, AVENGERS.
YOU HAVE EXECUTION PRIVILEGES.
MISTER OSBORN, THIS IS HAND AT H.A.M.M.E.R. CONTROL.
YOU SHOULD STAY WITH THE ALPHA TEAM. YOU'RE THE GROUND LEADER.
I HAVE THIS.


YOU DON'T LEAVE YOUR TEAM IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE AND GO OFF HALF-COCKED.
YOU'D *KNOW* THAT IF YOU KNEW ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL FAIL.
AND YOU'RE CRAZY.
AND I KNOW I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU NOW AND I DIDN'T.
I'M BETTER THAN YOU.
JUST FYI.

=SNIFF= THEY'RE ON THE MOVE, ARES. BREAK IT DOWN!
THIS'LL BE FUN.
BY ZEUS!
WEBS!
HOW DOES IT NOT FALL UNDER THE FORCE OF MY MIGHTY AXE?!
ALL IT MEANS IS THAT SPIDER-MAN IDIOT'S INSIDE.
SLICE IT! LET'S GO.
WHAT DOES YOUR NOSE TELL YOU, DAKEN? WHAT FLOOR ARE THEY ON?
THERE'S ONE LEFT ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THE REST ARE ON THE MOVE.
YOU TAKE LOW, I'LL TAKE HIGH.
HEY KIDS, GUESS WHO'S UNDER...
ARREST...

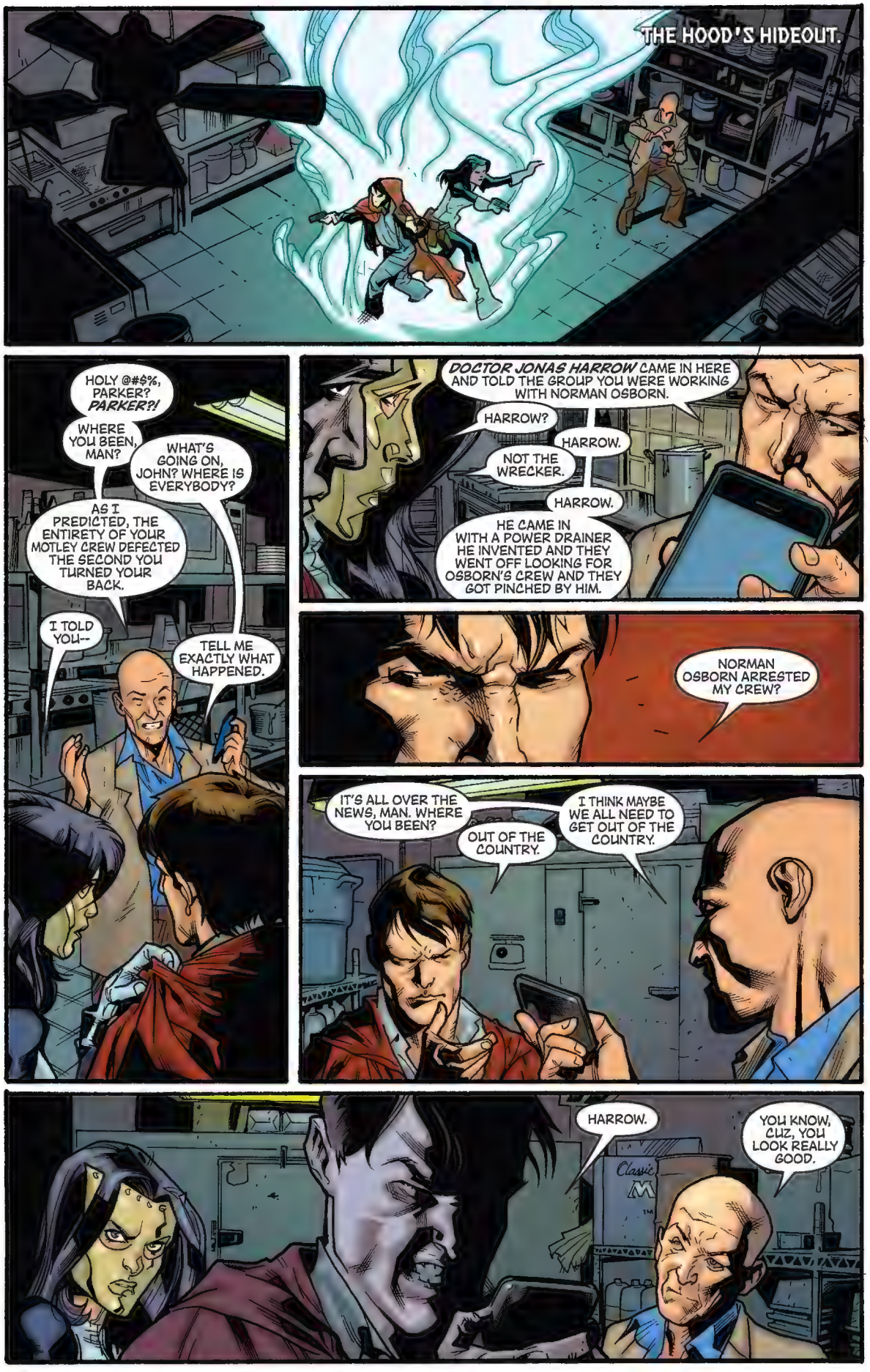
WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
HOLD ON.
HOLD ON ONE SECOND.
TAP
THERE. THANKS.
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS, LADY?
ANSWER WISELY, YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.
LISTEN, I JUST SENT AN E-MAIL TO AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. HIS NAME IS BEN URICH.
AND IF THAT NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR IT'S BECAUSE HE IS THE EDITOR IN CHIEF OF FRONT LINE.
I JUST TOLD HIM, ON THE RECORD, WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT.
THAT LUKE CAGE SURRENDERED HIMSELF TO NORMAN OSBORN.
THAT LUKE CAGE IS IN DIRE NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION... AND THAT IT IS NORMAN OSBORN'S SWORN DUTY TO SEE THAT CAGE GETS WHAT HE NEEDS.
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT ELSE I TOLD HIM.
THAT I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG.
THAT I HAVE ***SURRENDERED*** MYSELF TO YOU EVEN THOUGH I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.
LUKE CAGE CAME TO ME FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION BUT I SENT HIM TO YOU. I GAVE HIM UP.
SO IF ***ANYTHING*** WOULD HAPPEN TO ME, IT IS A ***CLEAR*** VIOLATION OF ***MY*** CIVIL RIGHTS.
WHO THE #$% ***ARE*** YOU?
I'M THE NIGHT NURSE.
WHERE ***ARE*** THEY?
THEY WHO?

YOU GOT A SCENT, DAKEN?
"HM?"
HM.
THEY WERE SMART.
SO THE SEWER STINK IS BLOCKING THEIR TRAIL.
AS IN... YOU *DON'T* HAVE A SCENT.
AS IN WE'RE RUNNING THROUGH THIS @#$% FOR NOTHING.
HOLD ON.
WHAT?
SHH.
WHAT?
SHH!
THERE.
CRACK

ZZAAK
AAGGHH!
YOU DAMN--
SPACK
MMHHRR!
WE GO! NOW!

I TOLD YOU TO TAKE OFF THAT UNIFORM!
CRACK
SMASK
MMFF!
SPASH
UH, GUYS!
NOW!
GOTTA GET ONE IN.
CAN'T HELP IT.
WHACK
SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH
UH-OH.

HUUAA!
KLANG
@#$%!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM ALL THIS!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SPASH
IMPRESSIVE.


THE HOOD'S HIDEOUT.
HOLY @#$%, PARKER? PARKER?!
WHERE YOU BEEN, MAN?
WHAT'S GOING ON, JOHN? WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
AS I PREDICTED, THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR MOTLEY CREW DEFECTED THE SECOND YOU TURNED YOUR BACK.
I TOLD YOU--
TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
DOCTOR JONAS HARROW CAME IN HERE AND TOLD THE GROUP YOU WERE WORKING WITH NORMAN OSBORN.
HARROW?
HARROW.
NOT THE WRECKER.
HARROW.
HE CAME IN WITH A POWER DRAINER HE INVENTED AND THEY WENT OFF LOOKING FOR OSBORN'S CREW AND THEY GOT PINCHED BY HIM.
NORMAN OSBORN ARRESTED MY CREW?
IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS, MAN. WHERE YOU BEEN?
OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
I THINK MAYBE WE ALL NEED TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
HARROW.
YOU KNOW, CUZ, YOU LOOK REALLY GOOD.
Classic

H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER.

DO WE HAVE HIS MEDICAL RECORDS?
I'M LOOKING NOW.
MISTER CAGE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ARE YOU CONSCIOUS?

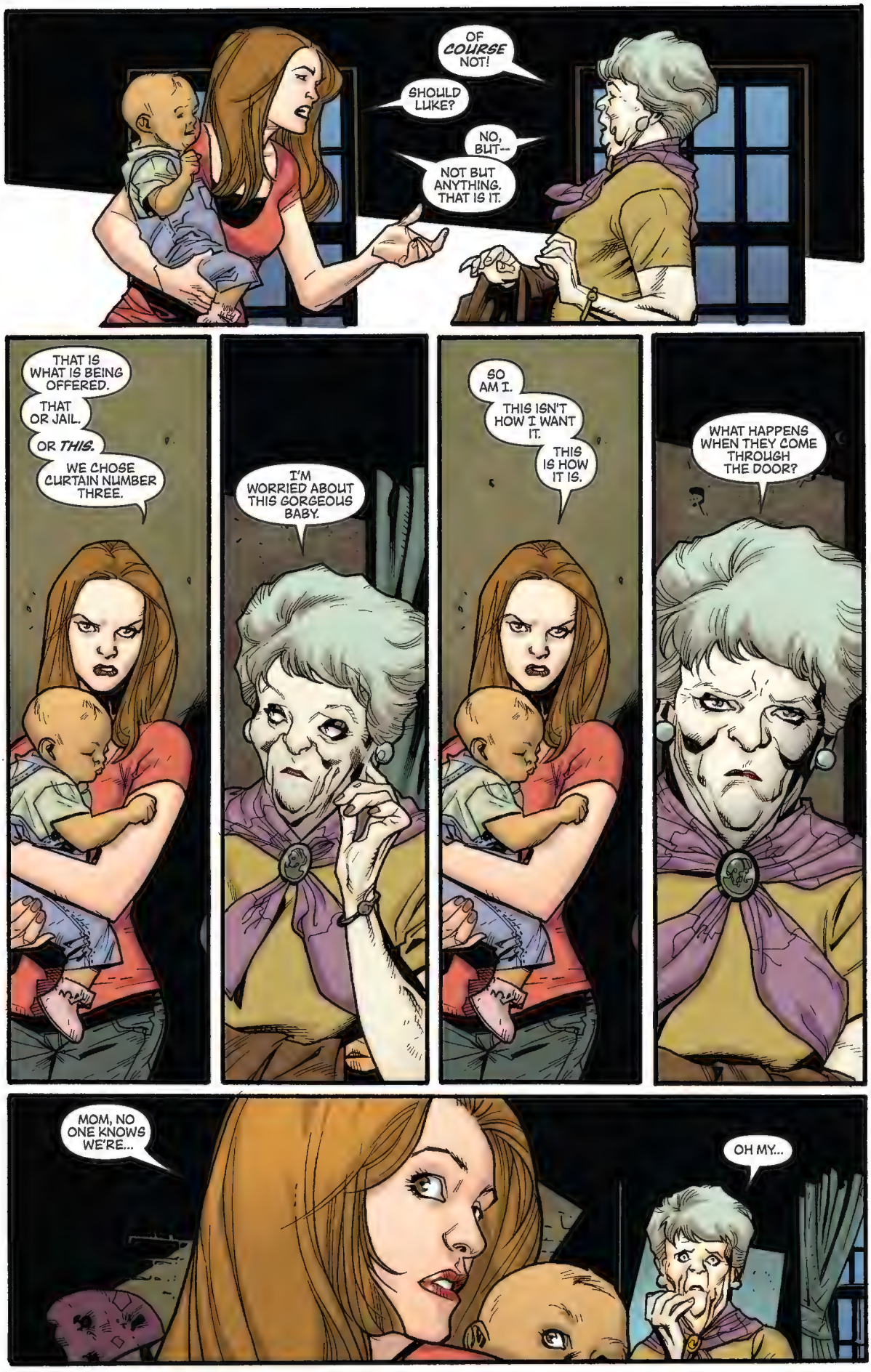
NEEDLES AREN'T GOING TO DO IT, SWEETIE.
HE HAS UNBREAKABLE SKIN.
WHAT?
THIS IS LUKE CAGE. UNBREAKABLE SKIN. IT'S HIS THING.

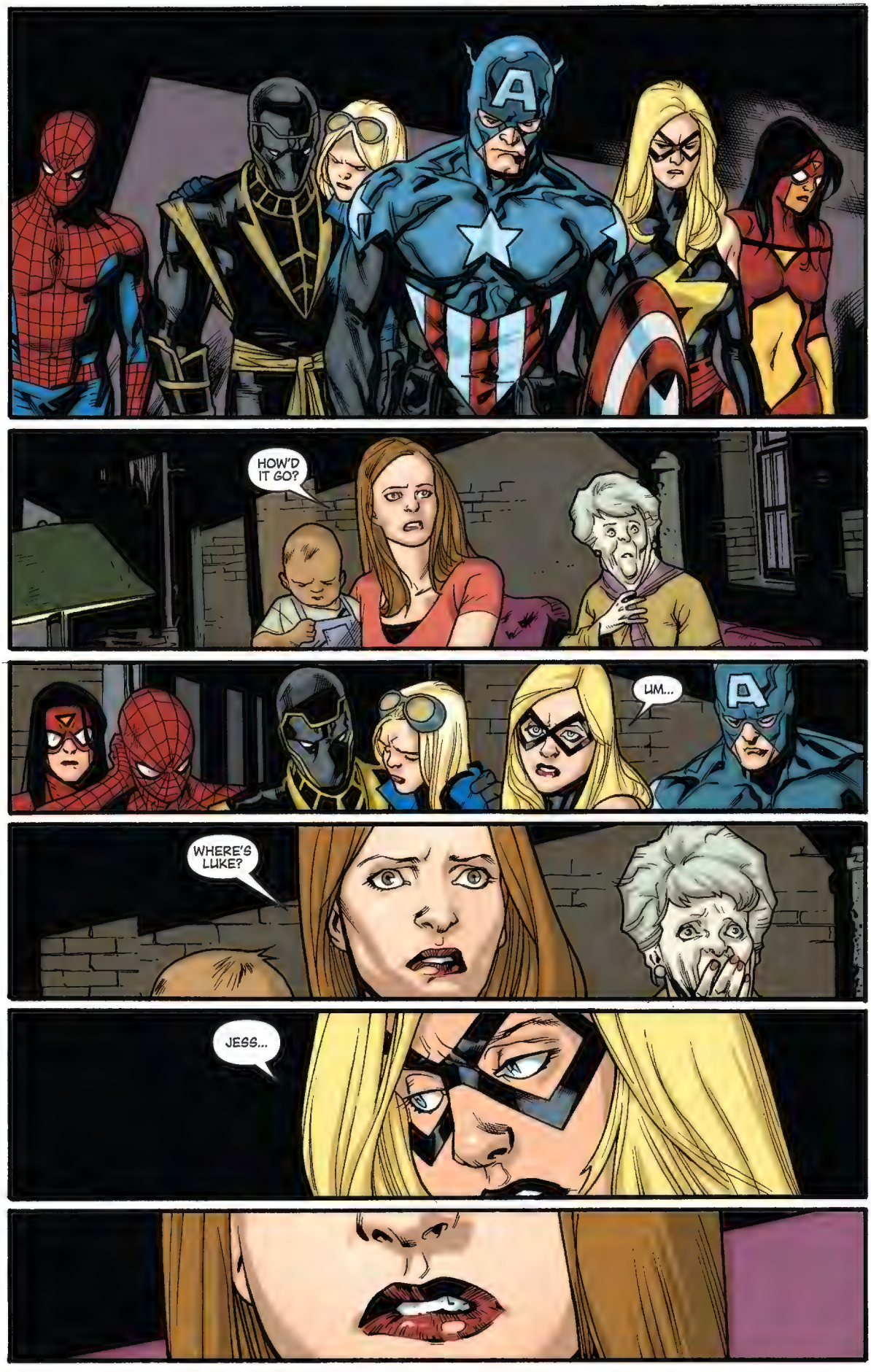
HOW THE @#$% AM I SUPPOSED TO OPERATE?!
NO READABLE PULSE.
WE NEED PADDLES.

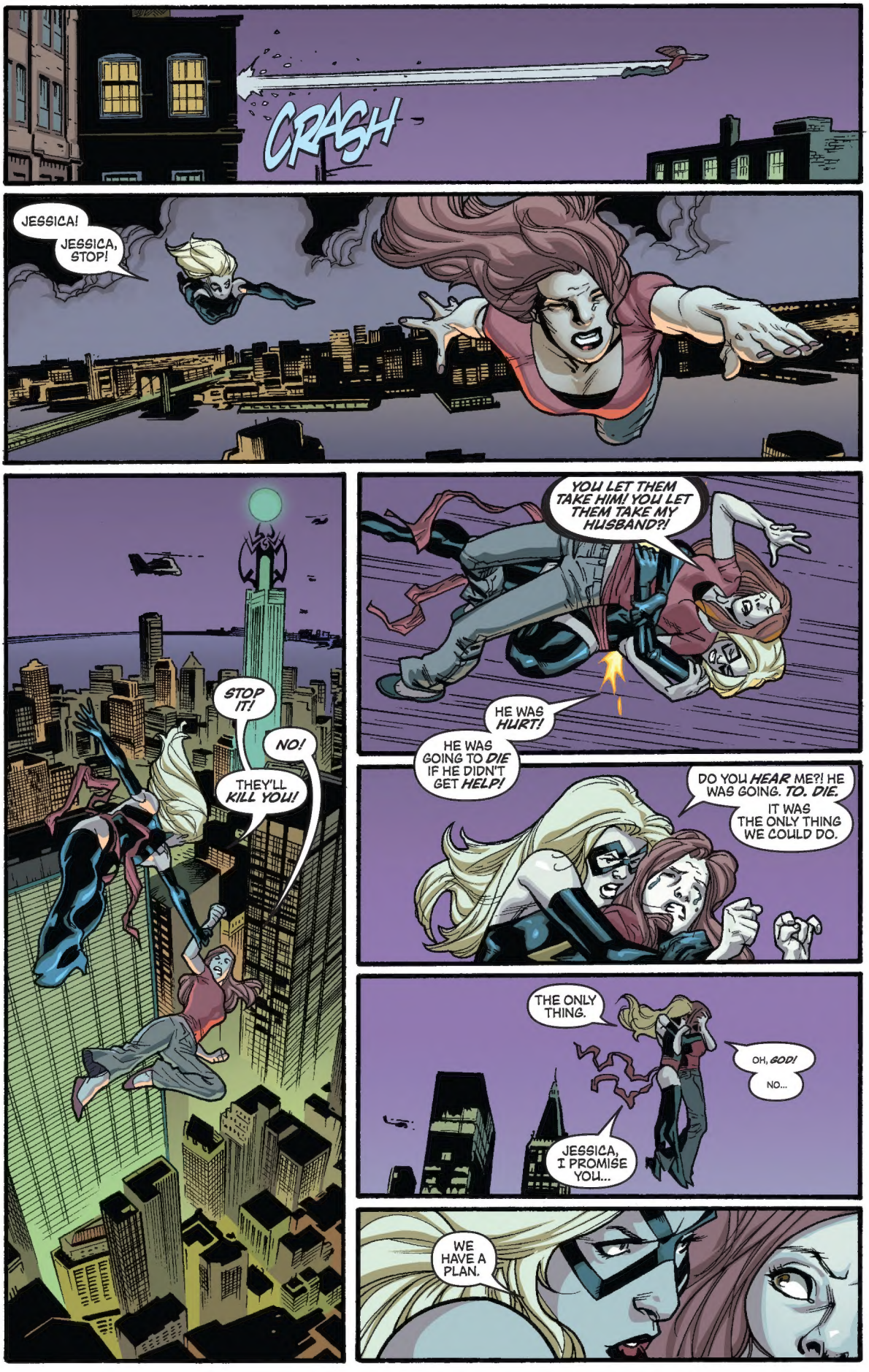
I GOT IT.

THAT'S NOT HOW WE--
ZAAK!!
MM!
WE HAVE A PULSE. WE *HAVE* IT!
EVERYONE TAKE A STEP BACK. I NEED SOME ROOM!
OSBORN, I NEED TO GET HIM *OPEN!*
I NEED TO GET INSIDE OR HE'S GOING TO *DIE!*
HMM.
HEY, @#$ HAPPENS.
THE PRESS WOULD HAVE A FIELD DAY.
HEY, YOU DIDN'T DO THIS, YOU TRIED TO SAVE HIM.
DOCTOR JONAS HARROW.
GET HIM.
BRING HIM HERE.

BROOKLYN.
AVENGERS HIDEOUT.
THIS IS HOW YOU LIVE?
THIS IS HOW YOU RAISE A BABY?
MOM...
THE BABY IS *FINE.* EVERYTHING IS FINE.
DO YOU THINK I WAS BORN YESTERDAY, JESSICA? DO YOU THINK I DON'T WATCH FOX NEWS?
YOU'RE ON THE RUN! YOU'RE HIDING. THIS IS A HIDEOUT.
YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND ARE WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES.
MOM.
THIS IS NOT HOW YOU RAISE A BABY.
MOM, DO YOU RAISE A CHILD BY *LIVING A LIE?!*
BY SELLING OUT EVERYTHING YOU BELIEVE IN?! IS *THAT* HOW YOU DO IT?
DON'T ANSWER! BECAUSE I *KNOW* THE ANSWER!
YOU TAUGHT ME THE ANSWER WHEN YOU TOOK ME IN. THE ANSWER IS *NO!*
THE BABY DOESN'T KNOW WHERE IT IS OR WHY.
YOU'RE DOING THIS FOR *YOU.*
WE'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE WE'RE *RIGHT!*
RIGHT ABOUT *WHAT?*
SHOULD I-- YOU TELL ME--SHOULD I WORK AS A HENCHMAN LACKEY FOR NORMAN OSBORN?


OF COURSE NOT!
SHOULD LUKE?
NO, BUT--
NOT BUT ANYTHING. THAT IS IT.
THAT IS WHAT IS BEING OFFERED.
THAT OR JAIL.
OR THIS.
WE CHOSE CURTAIN NUMBER THREE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THIS GORGEOUS BABY.
SO AM I.
THIS ISN'T HOW I WANT IT.
THIS IS HOW IT IS.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY COME THROUGH THE DOOR?
MOM, NO ONE KNOWS WE'RE...
OH MY...


HOW'D IT GO?
UM...
WHERE'S LUKE?
JESS...


CRASH
JESSICA!
JESSICA, STOP!
STOP IT!
NO!
THEY'LL KILL YOU!
YOU LET THEM TAKE HIM! YOU LET THEM TAKE MY HUSBAND?!
HE WAS HURT!
HE WAS GOING TO DIE IF HE DIDN'T GET HELP!
DO YOU HEAR ME?! HE WAS GOING. TO. DIE.
IT WAS THE ONLY THING WE COULD DO.
THE ONLY THING.
OH, GOD!
NO...
JESSICA, I PROMISE YOU...
WE HAVE A PLAN.

HELICARRIER/OPERATING THEATRE.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THE POWER DRAINER IS ACTIVATED.
MISTER CAGE IS READY FOR SURGERY.
DO I HAVE THE WORD, MISTER OSBORN?
YOU MAY BEGIN, DOCTOR.
HARROW, STEP BACK AND LET THEM DO WHAT THEY NEED TO DO.
OF COURSE.
SCALPEL.
FOR THE RECORD, WE ARE NOW OPENING MISTER CAGE'S CHEST.
WE HAVE MADE THE INCISION THROUGH THE SKIN. HIS SKIN IS TEARING.
WE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE PULMONARY ARTERY.
DOCTOR HARROW'S GENETIC POWER DRAINER HAS ALLOWED US ACCESS INTO MISTER CAGE'S BODY.
THE PUMP IS IN.
HOW DOES THIS POWER DRAINER WORK, DOCTOR HARROW?
WELL, IF I TOLD YOU I'D HAVE TO TELL EVERYBODY.
CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL ME, BUT I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO FIX CAGE, TAPE HIM UP AND WHAT? TOSS HIM IN JAIL?
JUST LET THE @#$% DIE.
PLEASE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# NEXT ISSUE!

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### SPIDER SHOWDOWN!

**THUNDERBOLTS #137**
MEET THE NEW RECRUITS...
POWER MAN & IRON FIST?!

**DOCTOR VOODOO #2**
BEWARE THE
SON OF SATAN!

**SPIDER-WOMAN #2**
HAIL HYDRA!

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